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Letter dated 8 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The question of whether there is stability or instability in Somalia concerns Ethiopia only second to the people of the sisterly country itself. Unlike many from afar, we share a border of over 2,000 kilometres with Somalia. Tens of thousands of refugees from Somalia are still in Ethiopia. Holders of Somalia passports are freely allowed to enter the country without restrictions. More than any other country, except Somalia, Ethiopia will be the greatest beneficiary from a stable and peaceful Somalia. Likewise, it will be adversely affected, as has been the case for the past 10 years, when there is no peace in that country. At this juncture, allow me to restate in part what Ethiopia's Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. Seyoum Mesfin said at the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly in addressing the issue of peace and reconciliation in Somalia:

> "It is Ethiopia's hope that what has already been achieved in Djibouti will be built upon and that the momentum for peace and national reconciliation will be maintained ... The opportunity now created in Somalia should not be allowed to slip away. This could easily happen if all attention is focused on seeking international legitimacy rather than internal national reconciliation. It would indeed be a tragedy and a recipe for further bloodshed in Somalia if an effort is not made to build on the peace and stability that has already been achieved by some regions and parts of Somalia. The issue of Somaliland, for instance, requires great sensitivity and a sense of enormous responsibility. Whatever has been achieved in Djibouti is going to be tested by how well the peace and stability that some parts of Somalia have achieved, is preserved."

In connection with this matter, I have the pleasure of attaching a note verbale of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia addressed to the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity. I would be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Abdulmejid **Hussein**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-20566 (E) 080101

Annex to the letter dated 8 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia presents its compliments to the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity and has the honour pursuant to the latter's Notes of 8 and 30 November 2000, to communicate the following.

As has been indicated in the Note by the General Secretariat of 30 November, the 8th IGAD Summit convened in Khartoum on 23rd November 2000 has adopted a resolution on Somalia which has relevance for the OAU.

It is the conviction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia that the said resolution is very realistic and faithful to the real situation in Somalia and therefore a document which the General Secretariat should bring to the attention of member states in full.

The following are the core elements of this IGAD Summit resolution:

- That the Arta Peace Conference constituted a major achievement in the Somali peace process.
- A call both on the Transitional Government and all parties and administrations in Somalia to create the environment for the inclusion of all in the peace process so that the opportunity for national reconciliation could be widened.
- Insistence that the peace process in Somalia must continue and be completed through dialogue and not by resorting to the use of force.

- An affirmation of the need for all necessary measures to be taken to ensure that the territory of Somalia will not be used as a springboard by groups inimical to the peace and security of the Sub-region.

- Reiteration and affirmation of IGAD's commitment to the Unity and territorial integrity of Somalia.

The 8th IGAD Summit resolution then in operative paragraphs 7 and 8 lays out the following which Ethiopia hopes the General Secretariat and members states would appreciate in their full meaning:

- Welcomes the participation of the Transitional Government of Somalia in the deliberation and activities of IGAD, bearing in mind that regular and continuing evaluation of progress towards peace and national reconciliation in the country will be carried out (operative Paragraph 7)

- Urgently call upon the international community to support the rehabilitation in Somalia through direct assistance to the Transitional Government and the regions which had established peace and stability through self administration, as long as they are committed to the peace process (Operative Paragraph 8).

This IGAD summit resolution whose central themes have been laid out above is based on careful consideration of a number of fundamental issues which can be outlined as follow:

- Recognition of the achievement of the Arta Conference and of the potential possibilities that have been created for full national reconciliation in Somalia.

- Recognition of the still existing complex difficulties in Somalia for national reconciliation and of the complex nature of the situation on the ground.

- Determination not to exacerbate the situation in Somalia by implicit legitimization of the use of force as a means of completing the process of the formation of a broad-based government in Somalia.

- Acknowledgment that there are administrations in Somalia which have managed to bring about peace and stability to some areas and that these should not be belittled and ignored and that doing so will have adverse implications.

It is the conviction of the Ministry that the General Secretariat will, in its reports and communications on Somalia, take into account what has been elaborated in the foregoing.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity the assurances of its highest consideration.